

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-11 have been amended. New independent claim 13 has been added. Reexamination and reconsideration of pending claims 1-13 are respectfully requested.

Applicants' gratefully acknowledge the indicated allowability of claims 11 and 12 if rewritten in independent form and to obviate the indefiniteness rejection. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 11 to be in independent form. In that regard, Applicants have deleted the phrase wherein "the lens cover can be held between the air outlet and the projection lens" to obviate the indefiniteness rejection and to make the claim read better. Hence, Applicants submit claims 11 and 12 are now in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 6-9 were rejected as being anticipated by SUZUKI et al. (US 5,287,132). Further, claims 4 and 5 were rejected as obvious over KONUMA et al. (US 6,238,050) in view of SUZUKI et al. In view of the clarifying amendments made with respect to independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In particular, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the housing for containing the light source and the projection lens. The housing is adapted to maintain the lens cover between the air outlet and the projection lens. As shown in Applicants' preferred embodiments, the housing 2 is adapted to maintain the lens cover 7 between the air outlet 8 and the projection lens 5 (see, for example, Figs. 2, 5 and 10).

By contrast, SUZUKI merely discloses a manually removable lens cover 30b adapted to fit over a projection lens 30. Such a conventional lens cover 30b is not adapted by the projector housing to be maintained between the air outlet 12 and the projection lens 30. Accordingly, Applicants submit amended claim 1 is not anticipated by SUZUKI et al.

Further, dependent claims 2-10 disclose additional features not taught nor suggested by SUZUKI et al., whether taken alone or in combination with KONUMA et al. Hence, Applicants submit claims 1-10 are now in condition for allowance.

Additionally, Applicants have added a new independent claim 13. Claim 13 recites a projector including a housing, a light source arranged in the housing, a projector lens mounted in the housing for projecting an optical image using light emitted by the light source, and an air outlet exhausting to an exterior of the housing air used to cool the light source. A lens cover protects the projection lens. The housing is adapted to maintain the lens cover in a position between the air outlet and the projection lens when the optical image is projected to deflect the air away from the optical image.

In view of the above remarks with respect to SUZUKI and KONUMA, Applicants respectfully submit claim 13 is likewise patentable. In that regard, SUZUKI et al. merely discloses a conventional lens cap 30b that is secured to the projection lens 30 when the projector is not in use, and that is separated from the projector when the projection lens emits an optical image.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit claims 1-13 are now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #010482.52785US).

Respectfully submitted,

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Jeffrey D. Sanok
Registration No. 32,169

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844

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